Further, to increase the production of cereals in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October, 2000 are under implementation to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs.

The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector has been launched.

Purchase of paddy at lower rate by traders

3672. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traders are purchasing paddy at the rate of Rs. 650/- per quintal in Jharkhand whereas Food Corporation of India (FCI) has fixed the price at Rs. 900/- per quintal;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take against the trading community in Jharkhand; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that less amount paid to farmers by the traders is reimbursed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Under the existing policy of foodgrains procurement, FCI and agencies of the State Governments procure paddy conforming to the prescribed specifications at Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government. However, farmers are free to sale their produce either to FCI/State Governments agencies or in the open markets as is advantageous to them. FCI has not received any complaint about sale of paddy by farmers in Jharkhand at less than the MSP.

Production and use of organic manure and cow products

†3673. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has got the cow-products (milk, dung and cow's urine) tested in laboratory that are being produced and sold in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scientists of Rural Science and Technology Institute, Delhi visited certain villages of Haryana to learn about the economic independence based on organic manure and cow-products and prepared a report;

(c) whether the said reports has been received; and

(d) if so, the salient points of this report?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Milk produced and marketed by dairies in organized sector from cows and buffalos is tested for its fat, SNF (solid not fat) and quality by the respective dairies/collection centres before procurement and selling to the consumers.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization, Wardha (Maharashtra), an institution under the purview of Khadi and Village Industries Commission, has conducted testing of samples of cow urine for proposing standards for 'Gomutra'.

(b) The scientists of Centre for Rural Development and Technology. Delhi visit rural areas in different States, including villages of Haryana, for various studies. However, no report on economic independence based on organic manure and cow products has been prepared at the Centre.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Minimum support price of foodgrains

†3674. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum support price is declared by Government from time to time for the selling of foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, whether any arrangements are also made on national level for procurement of foodgrains from the farmers at this price; and

(c) if so, the number of procurement centres setup in each State in the year 2008-09 and the name and quantity of foodgrains procured in each of these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): commodities, including foodgrains, every year based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with States and Central Ministries. Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Government agencies procure the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and incentive bonus, if any. However, farmers are free to sell their produce either to FCI and State Government agencies at MSP or sell the same in the open market as is advantageous to them.

(c) The State-wise number of procurement centers opened by FCI and State agencies in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 and 2008-09 and Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 and 2009-10 are at Statements-I and II respectively. (*See* below). Owing to large number of centres, the name and quantity of foodgrains procured in each of these centres are not maintained at the Ministry of level. However, as on 05.08.2009, procurement of rice during KMS 2008-09 has been 32.27 million tonnes while in RMS 2009-10, the procurement of wheat has been 25.29 million tonnes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.